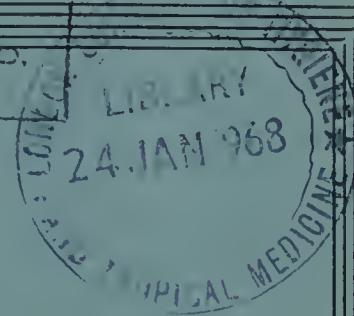


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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD



870
1/16/68
City and County Borough of Canterbury

Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

For the Year 1947

W. G. EVANS, M.A., M.B., B.Chr., D.P.H.

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Annual Report

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CITY OF CANTERBURY

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1st January — 31st October, 1947

Mayor :

Alderman Mrs. E. M. HEWS.

Chairman :

Councillor W. H. CHESSELL.

Sheriff DAWTON	Councillor ELAM
Alderman RIGDEN	„ FOWLER
Councillor DE LAUBENQUE	„ RICKARDS
„	„ WHITE
„	„ WOOD

1st November — 31st December

Mayor :

Alderman Mrs. E. M. HEWS.

Chairman :

Sheriff W. H. CHESSELL (Deputy Mayor).

Alderman DAWTON	Councillor FOWLER
„ RIGDEN	„ RICKARDS
Councillor BOTTING	„ WHITE
„ DE LAUBENQUE	„ WOOD
„ ELAM	

MEMBERS OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1st January — 31st October

Mayor :

Alderman Mrs. E. M. HEWS.

Chairman :

Alderman FRANK HOOKER.

Councillor BOTTING	Councillor JENNINGS
„ BARRETT	„ KENNY
„ DE LAUBENQUE	„ McCULLAM
„ ELAM	„ RICKARDS
	*REV. A. M. RITCHIE
	*THE VEN. THE ARCHDEACON
	BICKERSTETH
	*REV. L. G. APPLETON,

from June

*Co-opted Members.

Miss G. HARPER. Miss WIGGINS in March
(Teachers' representative without voting powers).

1st November — 31st December

Mayor :

Alderman MRS. E. M. HEWS.

Chairman :

Alderman FRANK HOOKER.

Councillor THOMAS	Councillor RICKARDS
„ BOTTING	„ KENNY
„ DE LAUBENQUE	*REV. A. M. RITCHIE
„ ELAM	*REV. L. G. APPLETON
„ JENNINGS	*Co-opted Members
„ McCULLAM	

Miss WIGGINS

(Teachers' representative without voting powers).

Town Clerk and Public Assistance Officer :

J. BOYLE, LL.B.

Director of Education :

J. GREEN, LL.B.

Staff of Public Health and School Medical Services :

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :

WILLIAM GORONWY EVANS, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.
(Resigned 30th September, 1947).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

HILDA M. GARLICK, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Clinical Tuberculosis Officer :

J. A. ROBSON, M.D., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon : PAULINE FIGDOR, L.R.C.P., L.D.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: THOMAS L. MARTIN, A.R.S.I., Meat
Inspector's Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

A. R. CLARK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

R. G. GOODBODY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors : Miss G. E. MAGUIRE, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Mrs. P. E. MATHEWS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
(commenced duty 5th April, 1948).

Matron, Isolation Hospital : Miss M. LEWIS, S.R.F.N.

School Nurses : Miss A. E. GLASSBOROW, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss P. TROY, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Child Guidance Clinic :

Psychiatrist : E. WHATLEY, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

Psychologist : Miss E. HORNE, Dip. Psych., N.F.U. Tchng.
Cert. & Train. Dip., L.L.A.

Psychiatric Social Workers : Miss C. DAUNT.
Miss I. ELKAM, M.H. Cert.

Play Therapist: Miss S. HARNETT, Dip. Psych., Ed.Ps., Pl.Th.
Municipal Midwives :

L. P. LYNES, S.C.M.
E. H. OWEN, S.C.M.
C. M. PIERCE, S.R.N., S.C.M.
E. L. TEMPLETON, S.C.M.

Administrative Staff :

Chief Clerk, T.B. Assessment Officer, Vaccination Officer :
D. PLEDGE.

Assistant Clerk : Miss J. M. PANTON.

Clerks : Miss E. W. EDGINGTON.

Miss M. HUGHES.
Miss P. BENNETT (School Clinic).
Miss M. HOPKINS (Child Guidance Clinic).

Rodent Officer, Disinfecto and General Assistant : G. COX.

Officers devoting part-time to Public Health and School Medical Services :

Medical Superintendent, Municipal Hospital, Nunney Fields,
and District Medical Officer: HAROLD WACHER, M.D., B.Chr.

Medical Superintendent, City Mental Hospital (evacuated):
FRANCIS L. SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.

Public Vaccinator : HILDA M. GARLICK, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist :
J. K. BAKER, M.R.C.O.G.

Venereologist: E. E. PREBBLE, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons :

T. A. CLARKE, M.D., F.R.C.F. (Ed.), D.L.O.
C. E. S. OXLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.L.O.

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon :

F. G. ST. CLAIR STRANGE, F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon : T. M. O'NEILL, M.B., B.Chr., D.O.M.S.

Public Analyst : E. S. HAWKINS, O.B.E., B.Sc., A.R.C.S.,
F.R.I.C., 19 Watling Street.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1947. It is the wish of my esteemed predecessor in the office of Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. Goronwy Evans, that there is recorded an expression of thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyalty and hard work during his term of office. In this I concur most willingly, finding that I have inherited a staff full of enthusiasm for public service. Something of the sentiment of this ancient monument lingers on.

Some parts of this annual report as a description of present services are more out of date than annual reports usually are, for 1948 has seen big changes in the form and direction of public health and hospital services, and 1947 has therefore passed far behind. But the changes have not presented many greater difficulties to this department than that of squeezing a lot of hard work into a very few months, which shows that the public health services which existed were up to the times, and were easily shaped into the health services of 1948.

An annual report, however, is meant to be read, and such inclusions as the Senior Sanitary Inspector's letter and the comments of the Medical Director of the Child Guidance Clinic make up for any out-dating in other parts. I confidently commend these sections to your attention.

The statistics for the year read well, with a low Infant Mortality of 34.8 per 1,000 live births. It was a year of higher incidence of whooping cough and measles, which raised the figures for Infectious Diseases. The district was fortunate in having so few cases of acute poliomyelitis whilst the country was in the throes of an epidemic.

The problem of greatest magnitude to-day is housing, greatly aggravated (i) by the needs of ex-Service men now hoping to settle after the war's disturbance of those important early years of married life, (ii) by loss of houses by bomb damage, and (iii) by the reduction of house building during the war. Isolated cases of serious overcrowding still arise, mostly through the grown-up members of a family settling in their parents' home after marriage for want of other housing. The public hear little of the hard work put in by councillors and officials in bringing available resources to bear on the problem.

Attention is called to the following services. A new Infant Welfare Clinic has been started at Wincheap on Monday afternoons in the Infant Department of Wincheap School. Arrangements have been made for the dental care of expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children with the provision

of dentures if required. Mothers who attend at the Ante-Natal Clinic are being encouraged to attend for post-natal examination six weeks after the birth of a baby. This examination is a necessary procedure following childbirth, and much ill-health and incapacity in women will be prevented if every mother sees to it that she has a medical check-over at the sixth week after childbirth.

There are many advantages to the Canterbury people in having their health services run as a compact unit under local control. Not the least of them is to know that a particular problem is understood better by an officer who knows the background to it. We are fortunate in having the fulcrum of local hospital services set in the city, and it is not without advantage to the Hospital Management Committee that there is a health authority at hand to express its point of view in deliberations.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1947

Area (Acres) : 4,702.

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population, mid-1947 : 24,390.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947 according to Rate Book) : 7,095.

Rateable Value : £235,669.

Sum represented by penny rate : £900.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	For Birth Rate.		
	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—			
Totals	553	280	273
Legitimate	532	270	262
Illegitimate	21	10	11
Stillbirths	4	3	1
Deaths	322	145	177
Death from Puerperal causes : Nil.			
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis		1	
Other maternal causes			Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age :			
Legitimate 15. Illegitimate 2. Total 17.			

The following table compares the above figures with corresponding figures elsewhere :—

Per 1,000 total population :

	Canterbury.	England & Wales.	148 Towns Resident Pop. 25,000=50,000 1931 Census.
Births	22.66	20.5	22.2
Stillbirths ..	0.16	0.50	0.54
Deaths	13.2	12.0	12.8
Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births :			
Infant Mortality	34.8	41.0	36.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			2
,, „ Whooping Cough (all ages)			1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			—
„ „ Cancer (all ages)			45

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Service.

The Kent and Canterbury Hospital Pathological Laboratory handled the pathological and bacteriological investigation in the area. Not only was a good service provided, but the laboratory staff under Dr. E. Morris were at all times ready to assist with advice and assistance with the more technical investigations.

For Public Health laboratory work on milk samples and water supplies the Kent County Laboratory at Maidstone was used.

Analyst work was handled by the Canterbury Public Analyst.

It would be a distinct advantage if the Public Health Laboratory work also was handled locally, to cut to the minimum the time between sampling and handing over to the laboratory.

Forty-one Pathological and Bacteriological examinations were carried out for the town by the Kent and Canterbury Hospital Laboratory, and an additional 42 were dealt with for the Isolation Hospital.

Ambulance Services.

The general arrangements in regard to ambulance services remained the same as in 1946. The City Ambulance operated during the daytime on weekdays, and the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Kent and Canterbury Hospital provided a night and week-end service.

The total mileage travelled by the City Ambulance again showed an increase—11,309 compared with 10,192 in 1946. The proportion of this mileage relating to cases residing outside the City remained at approximately 3/7.

The following list gives the sources of the calls dealt with during 1947 :—

Private Residents	...	...	...	...	113
Kent and Canterbury Hospital	...	...	...	...	197
Relieving Officers	...	...	...	...	87
Police	...	...	...	...	16
Woodville Homes	...	...	...	...	106
Municipal Hospital	...	...	...	...	199
Public Health Department	...	...	...	...	144
Miscellaneous, including industrial accidents					89
					—
					951
					—

After 5th July, 1948, the three sources of Ambulance Service will be combined into a joint City of Canterbury and Kent County Ambulance Service centred in Canterbury, to cover the City and Bridge-Blean Rural District, and beyond if required. The telephone number will be Canterbury 2515.

The following ambulances were available for general sickness and accidents :—

Owner	Ambulances	Sitting Case Cars
Kent and Canterbury Hospital	...	2
St. John Ambulance Brigade (Canterbury Corps)	...	2
Canterbury City Council	...	2
Canterbury City Council (for Infectious Diseases)	...	1

Professional Nursing in the Home.

General Nursing.—The Canterbury and District Nursing Association supplies two District Nurses for service in the City, and one District Nurse-midwife who works in the adjoining County Area. The service was supported by voluntary contributions and subscriptions.

The Association will be brought within the local health services in July, 1948, to provide the home nursing services as an agent of the Canterbury Health Authority.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND ANTE-NATAL SERVICES

Clinics.

(a) Infant Welfare Clinics were held at the Public Health Department, 20a Stour Street, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

(b) Ante-Natal Clinics were held at the Welfare Centre every Wednesday at 2.15 p.m. The services of a Consultant were available to Doctors needing assistance in difficult or complicated Maternity cases.

(c) Children under 5 years of age and Expectant Mothers were able to receive treatment at the School Dental Clinic.

Cases from the contiguous County area used these clinic services, by arrangement between the two Authorities. During the year 42 Ante-Natal cases were dealt with for the County Council, involving 104 examinations. The cost of these examinations was met by the Kent County Council.

From July, 1948, these services will continue with an additional ante- and post-natal session on Wednesday forenoons (by appointment through the Senior Health Visitor). There is also a new Infant Welfare Clinic at Wincheap Primary School on Monday afternoons, 2.30 to 4 p.m.

Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.

There were two Maternity Nursing Homes in the City, providing four beds. Apart from these, there were twelve beds for complicated cases at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, and six beds for normal or recovering maternity cases at the Dane John Maternity Hostel.

During the year the Canterbury Maternity Association gave up the management of the Hostel, which was handed over to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital to run on behalf of the City Council.

It thus became and now forms a useful annexe to the hospital maternity provision. Nevertheless, the area is still intolerably short of hospital maternity beds.

The following table shows the distribution of cases confined in the City :—

Confined at Home. Attended by Municipal Midwives	Confined in Hostel	Confined in K. & C. Hospital. (Complicated)	Private	Total Births
325	13	303	36	677

N.B.—The figures tabulated above have not been adjusted to take into account inward and outward transfers as have the figures on page 6.

Home Help Service.

The department had an establishment of three full-time Home Helps. The work was limited to 14 days in the house of mothers following confinement. This staff has formed the nucleus on which the Domestic Help Service of the new Health Services beginning on July, 1948, has been built. The scope has been extended to all illness, without the limitation to childbirth, and requests for the service are handled through the Health Department, Stour Street.

Midwifery Service.

No alteration was made in the Midwifery Service during the year. There were 13 midwives practising in the district. Four of these are employed as Municipal Midwives by the Corporation, and were fully occupied in their duties. At the end of 1947 the Municipal Midwives were not trained to administer Analgesia, but they are now so trained, having taken the recognised course in Gas and Air Analgesia.

Health Visitor.

It is pleasing to report that early in 1948 an additional Health Visitor was appointed, and that Miss Macquire, who for so long has carried the load of growing Welfare services, was designated Senior Health Visitor.

The Health Visitor visited all children under 5 years in their own homes as well as conducting Welfare Clinics.

The following tables give details of this work for the year :

Visits Paid by the Health Visitor During the Year

To Expectant Mothers :

First visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Total visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	186

To Children under 1 year of age :

First visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	536
Total visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2287

To Children between 1 and 5 years of age :

Total visits	995
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Total number of Expectant Mothers at the Ante-Natal Clinic during the year ...

656

Total number of Children under 5 years who attended the Clinic for the first time during the year :

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	393
Over 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	60

Total number of Children who attended the Clinic during the year and were at the end of the year :

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	252
Over 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	419

Premature Infants.

Cases of prematurity were notified as such on the Birth Notification forms. Eleven cases belonging to Canterbury were notified in this way. There were also six others whose mothers were resident outside the City.

There were five deaths among the premature babies in the City. These occurred in hospital.

Illegitimate Children.

There were three illegitimate births notified in the City, and 18 others transferred to Canterbury were born outside the City.

The Health Visitor supervised these cases. Every effort is made to establish contact as soon as possible in the pregnancy. The mother is encouraged to attend the Ante-Natal Clinic and the Infant Welfare Clinic after the baby's birth. Arrangements have also been made with the Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare for the use of their affiliated homes for suitable cases, and one case was admitted to such homes under the Council's arrangements during the year.

Uncleanliness and Scabies.

Such cases arising through the welfare services were so few and far between that no special arrangements were required. In conjunction with school health service arrangements, families were treated as a whole. Flea infested families were dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector at their homes.

The cancellation of emergency powers to deal with scabies or other infections will not, it seems, cause any difficulties now that the war-time increase in such cases is subsiding.

Child Life Protection.

During the year the Relieving Officer continued as Infant Life Protection Visitor, with the Health Visitor acting in certain cases.

Infant Mortality.

Premature Births	...	...	...	...	5
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Pyloris Stenosis	...	...	...	...	1
Atelactasis	...	...	...	...	1
Birth Injuries	...	...	...	...	1
Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Bronchitis and Measles	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Failure. Patent Foramen Ovale	...	...	...	...	1
Measles and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1

Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Endocarditis	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Morbus Cordis. Patent Interven-					
tricular Septum	...	...	...	...	1

17

Of the total of 17 deaths, three were due to congenital defects, five due to prematurity, two were associated with child-birth, and six were illnesses or accidents which were possibly preventable.

Thus of the 17 deaths, only four (in which is included the case of epilepsy) were quite unavoidable.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.

Visiting and inspection of homes and children, prior to adoption, under Section 7 of the above Act, was carried out by the Health Visitor.

Dental and Orthopaedic Cases, Etc.

Expectant mothers and young children who required dental treatment were recommended by the Medical Officer of Health to attend the School Dental Clinic, where arrangements were made for the School Dental Surgeon to deal with these cases.

No. of attendances by Expectant Mothers	...	37
No. of attendances by Children	...	45

This showed an increase on the previous year, but sufficient advantage was not yet taken of this important service.

The Medical Officer of Health recommended any children under five who needed Orthopaedic treatment to attend at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital to be seen by the Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Registered Nursing Homes at December, 1947.

Total number of Beds	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Mat. Beds	...	...	...	...	4

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

The Kent and Canterbury Hospital had 210 beds. Of these beds, 151 were open for all types of general, medical and surgical cases, including 18 private, 12 maternity, and 29 children's beds in the Children's Ward.

Clinics.

The following clinics were held at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, and were attended by the appropriate Specialists :—

Venereal Diseases.

Psychio-Therapeutic.

Orthopædic.
Ear, Nose and Throat.
Ophthalmic.

In addition, the Physicians and Surgeons and Dermatologist saw cases referred from Welfare or School Clinics.

Other Clinic : Tuberculosis, 18 New Dover Road.

Treatment was given at the appropriate clinics under the School Health Service to children suffering from Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids, Crippling Defects, and Defective Vision.

There was an arrangement for cases sent from Welfare Clinics to receive U/V light therapy at the Hospital on a payment per case basis, but no advantage was taken of it, such cases being referred through the Consultant Physician for such treatment. The City's health services lack any U/V light provision outside the hospital services.

Isolation Hospital.

The Borongh's Infectious Diseases Hospital in Stodmarsh Road is a pleasantly situated, solidly built hospital, exactly 50 years old. While the fittings in some respects remain dated with the hospital, and the nurses' home does not conform to the best of present day standards in the amenities provided, it can be brought up to date easily, and there is sufficient ground to allow some expansion to make it a useful addition to the area hospital services after July, 1948.

It provides three double ward blocks of graduated sizes, accommodation being classed at 40 beds on war-time standards, but originally laid out as a 28 bed unit of $(10 + 10) + (4 + 4) + (1 + 1)$. In present use it is laid out as $(13 + 13) + (5 + 5) + (2 + 2)$, these numbers including beds and cots.

These last fifty years of rapid advance in medical knowledge and sanitary inventiveness have left the hospital behind, and it is unfortunate that the opportunities of the "thirties" were lost, and the burden of the leeway handed on to the less blessed "forties." I hope that those who in July, 1948, take over this little hospital will recognise its possibilities and its situation, which is one of the healthiest in the area, and will develop it for the benefit of the community when the time is opportune.

Allocation of cases treated in the Isolation Hospital during 1947 :—

Canterbury City Council	...	...	...	45
Bridge-Blean R.D.C.	...	...	...	38
H.M. Forces	...	...	...	6

Isle of Thanet J.H.B.	...	...	...	...	—
Herne Bay U.D.C.	...	...	...	...	5
Margate Borough Council	...	...	...	...	2
Deal	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					97
					—

Cases of Diseases Dealt With.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	55
German Measles	...	...	...	...	25
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	...	...	4
Polio	...	...	...	...	2
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					97
					—

The Municipal Hospital.

Sick Wards (Male)	Beds	...	...	46
" " (Female)	"	...	...	83
Institution (Male)	"	...	...	39
" " (Female)	"	...	...	17
Casual Wards (Male)	"	...	...	66
" " (Female)	"	...	...	5
				—
				256
				—

Mental Hospital.

Cases now arising in Canterbury were admitted to Charlham Mental Hospital. On the 4th November, 1946, one wing of the Canterbury Mental Hospital was re-opened and 28 selected men patients returned from Netherne Hospital and Charlham. The rest of the Canterbury Mental Hospital (Stone House) remained in use by the Simon Langton Girls' School.

Sanatoria for Tuberculosis.

By arrangements with the Kent County Council, patients from the City area were admitted to Sanatoria in the County pari passu with cases from the County area. This was in lieu of the old arrangement of reserving ten beds at Lenham for Canterbury cases.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Weekly clinics were held at the School Clinic, Northgate, and at the Child Welfare Clinic at Stour Street. At the end of the year 325 children had been immunised at this clinic and 87 at the School Clinic.

Forty-four children of pre-school age were immunised by local practitioners during the year, the necessary prophylactic being issued free from the Public Health Department. A fee of 7s 6d was paid to practitioners in respect of cases dealt with in this manner.

Details of the work accomplished at the end of 1947 are appended :—

Number of Sessions held during 1947 71

Number of attendances 499

Total number of children under 15 dealt with to end of 1947 6072

Children immunised during the year :

School Children 84

Infant Welfare Children 328

% of children who had received Diphtheria

Immunisation :

Total Child population :

0-4 yrs. 2,046 % Immunised 40.6

5-14 yrs. 3,150 % Immunised 72.4

Schick testing as a routine was abandoned.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications.

The following table gives the number of cases notified during the past seven years.

Site	Number of Notifications													
	1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	t
Lungs	11	13	12	17	7	10	13	15	18	9	14	9	13	7
Glands	1	5	4	2	2	3	2	—	—	3	2	1	1	—
Bones, Joints, etc.	3	3	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	3	—

Thirty-three patients were treated during the year, some of them receiving treatment in several hospitals. The list shown below gives the number of cases treated at each hospital.

Kettlewell	...	...	...	...	...	7
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lenham	...	...	...	...	...	16
Kent and Canterbury	...	...	...	...	...	5
London Chest	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miller	...	...	...	...	...	4
Keycol	...	...	...	...	...	3
Orpington	...	...	...	...	...	1
Royal National	...	...	...	...	...	1
Benenden	...	...	...	...	...	2
Preston Hall	...	...	...	...	...	1

The number of cases who received extra nourishment ancillary to their treatment at home was 35. The expense was met by the Council as Tuberculosis Authority.

VENEREAL DISEASES

A Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital as follows :—

Females : Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.; Fridays, 2.30 p.m.

Males : Tuesdays, 5.0 p.m.; Fridays, 5.0 p.m.

The number of patients who attended in 1947 was as follows :—

June Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	201
September Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	181
December Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	201

In-patients treatment can also be provided at the Hospital, responsibility for treatment being accepted by this Authority.

No action under Section 33B of the Defence Regulations was found necessary during the year.

The part-time almoner appointed to the Venereal Diseases Clinic to trace contacts and follow up defaulters continued her duties unobtrusively under the direction of the Venereologist.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and Other Diseases

Under the Notification of Diseases Section of the Public Health Act, 1936, 503 cases (exclusive of Tuberculosis) were notified by Medical Practitioners as against 161 in 1946.

Eighteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year compared with 26 cases last year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than TUBERCULOSIS) FOR THE YEAR 1947

		Total cases notified (in writing)	Cases Admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	...	18	27	—
Whooping Cough	...	132	6	1
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—
Measles ...	...	342	9	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	—	—
Diphtheria	...	1	3	—
Pneumonia	...	6	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (APM and APE)	...	3	1	—
		—	—	—
		503	45	3
		—	—	—

CANCER

Operative, X-ray and radium treatment is available at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Children.

The Child Guidance Service continued to do excellent work for a wide area of East Kent. The numbers referred to the Clinic continued to rise. A full report of its work is to be found at the end of the Report of the School Medical Officer.

Adults.

A Psycho-therapeutic Clinic was held at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital by the Medical Superintendent of the Kent and County Mental Hospital, Chatham.

The Health Visitor was available as an authorised officer for the purposes of Section 17 of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

Institutional Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives.

Mental Defectives requiring institutional care were sent to certified institutions in various parts of the country as vacancies occurred. The Municipal Hospital was approved by the Board of Control for the reception of ten male and ten female adult defectives, and was a certified institution within the meaning of Section 37 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, as amended.

GENERAL

Administration of Institutional Medical Services.

There have been no alterations in the administration of institutional Medical Services during 1947.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

This service was continued throughout the year.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1947

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
20a Stour Street,
Canterbury.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
City and County Borough of Canterbury.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have pleasure in presenting the report on the sanitary
inspection services carried out during 1947.

Of the changes during the year, the most important was
the closure of the Government controlled slaughter houses which
served both the City area and several adjoining towns. In some
ways this action is to be regretted, but one should not lose sight
of the fact that these old slaughter houses were being used for
many times more animals than they were intended and that the
hygienic conditions were far from satisfactory. It is to be hoped
that the negotiations in hand at the end of the year for the
erection of an abattoir will soon bear fruit, and then Canterbury,
which is well situated in the agricultural area of East Kent, will
have premises which, though smaller than many, will be second
to none for the humane slaughter of animals and the hygienic
production of meat.

A problem not of easy solution which confronts the staff of
the Public Health Department is the one of the aged person living
alone, who, by reason of senility, has fallen into an unclean state.
Probably on account of the gradual lowering of the standard of
their habits, this class of person appears to be unable to realise to
what state they have sunk. They cling desperately to the freedom
"enjoyed" in their own home, and usually vow that they will
not leave until carried out. When prevailed upon to clean up,
pathetic attempts of a temporary nature are made, and there is
often a resentment of offers of help by relatives or neighbours.

The Sanitary Inspectors are fully aware of the importance
of the clean handling of food by persons engaged in its preparation
or distribution, and no opportunity is lost to educate persons at
fault. The majority of tradesmen handling foodstuffs appreciate
the value of the preventative work to prevent food poisoning, but
there are a few who do not take kindly to the present day ideas.
Probably the apathy is due to the fact that this class of person is
fortunate in not having been in close contact with cases of food
poisoning and do not realise the seriousness of an outbreak.

I should like to record my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the sympathetic consideration they have given to the suggestions put before them, and my thanks are due to the Medical Officer of Health and the Staff of the Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. L. MARTIN,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

RETURN OF SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR 1947

No. of complaints received and investigated 669

INSPECTIONS

Houses inspected under Housing Act	...	...	...	470
Visits to drainage systems	...	...	...	544
Drains tested	...	...	...	124
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	37
Cowsheds	...	...	...	61
Fish fryers	...	...	...	25
Food shops	...	...	...	349
Marine stores, etc.	...	...	...	3
Milk shops and dairies	...	...	...	134
Premises as to provision of refuse receptacles	...	...	...	137
Premises with reference to rat infestation	...	...	...	1761
Repairs to property	...	...	...	2223
Fertilizing and Foodstuffs	...	...	...	17
Cinemas	...	...	...	3
Restaurants	...	...	...	53
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	538
Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	11
Vermiinous rooms	...	...	...	79
Shops Act	...	...	...	2
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	47
Accumulation of rubbish	...	...	...	24
Bakehouses	...	...	...	51
Ice Cream	...	...	...	106
Overcrowding	...	...	...	15
River pollution	...	...	...	19
Housing survey	...	...	...	35
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	385

Improvements

Houses at which drains were repaired	...	...	...	...	52
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	26
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	9
Gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	30
Inspection chambers built, new cover provided and rendered	...	...	...	...	31
Soil and vent pipes fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	11
W.C. pans fixed	...	...	...	...	77
Additional W.C.'s built	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. compartments ventilated	...	...	...	...	1
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	19
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Sink waste pipes renewed or trapped	...	...	...	...	23
Eaves, gutters and fall pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	42
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	104
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	58
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Rooms cleansed and/or disinfected	...	...	...	...	47
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	66
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	51
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	81
Rooms re-decorated	...	...	...	...	12
Dampness in walls remedied	...	...	...	...	108
Yard paving renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Wash coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	46
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	52
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary bins provided	...	...	...	...	34
W.C. seats	...	...	...	...	2
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulation removed	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	3
New branch drains	...	...	...	...	6
W.C.'s repaired and rebuilt	...	...	...	...	7
Sub-Floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	46
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	178
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	54

In one complaint entry to the premises could not be obtained, and after every normal endeavour had been tried and proved unsuccessful, a warrant to enter was obtained and forcible entry effected.

HOUSING ACTS

Number of New Houses erected during 1947 :—

(1) By the Local Authority ...	182	
		109 Temporary bungalows
(2) By Private Enterprise ...	22	
		6 re-built
		—
Total ...	319	
		—
Houses demolished ...	1	
Net increase of Houses ...	318	

It is very pleasant to be able to record that Canterbury, at the end of the year, was leading all other county boroughs with regard to the number of houses completed relative to population, and if the temporary bungalows erected are included, the City occupied second place in the list of all local authorities in the country.

Although the City Council has made this excellent progress in the provision of new houses, a problem of major importance still confronts the Council both in the shortage of houses and the deteriorating state of the old houses in the more densely populated parts of the town. Many of the old houses suffered damage during the war years, and a state of accelerated decay is being brought about through neglect. This is due to the shortage of labour and an understandable reluctance on the part of the owners to spend money on houses bringing in only a few shillings a week, especially when the future life of the property is uncertain. In fact, the ownership of poor class properties has become such a liability that, in contrast to the previous years when landlords fought to retain their premises, they are now asking for their houses to be condemned.

The policy adopted is, unless the house is so bad that its existence cannot be tolerated any longer, to ask for the bare minimum of repairs, because it is realised that as soon as a separate house has been provided for each family, slum clearance and re-housing should proceed with all possible speed.

There is no evidence of widespread overcrowding according to the Housing Act standard, but many of the young married couples sharing houses with relations are very near to being overcrowded. There is more truth than at first appears in the old saying that no kitchen is big enough for two women, as the evidence of persons sharing houses suggests that the discord and mental strain in these cases are of such magnitude that they are to be considered as important factors affecting the health of the community quite apart from the physical effects of overcrowding.

Still another group of families requiring new houses are those living in houses which are subject to Demolition Orders. There are 21 families in these houses, and although the Council are not legally compelled to re-house these persons in times like the present with the great scarcity of working class dwellings, it must be admitted that there is a moral obligation to do so.

A legacy of previous actions under the Housing Acts exists in the shape of some 30 unoccupied houses which are in a ruinous state in the City. Apart from their unsightliness, they are detrimental to health in that they are dumps for rubbish and likely to harbour vermin, and should be demolished as soon as possible.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	470
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	2223
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	35
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	35
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	—

2. Remedy of Defects during Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authorities or their officers	309
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	I
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	I

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :							
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :							
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners							3
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :							
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :							
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
E.—Proceedings under Section 14 of the Housing Act, 1936 :							
Proceedings were taken against the owner of a basement flat subject to a Closing Order for re-letting the flat for occupation, and a fine of £10 and £2 1/6 costs were imposed.							

WATER SUPPLY

The Canterbury Gas and Water Co. own the water undertaking and maintain a very satisfactory supply to all except 20 houses in the City.

The supply is collected from deep wells in the chalk and is lime softened by the Company. A minimal dose of chlorine is given more to keep the apparatus in first-class working condition for an emergency than because the supply normally requires it.

Eleven samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination and in every case of water from the public mains B.Coli (presumptive) were absent in 100 c.c.s.

Of the 20 houses without a proper piped supply from the towns mains :—

6 houses draw water from a stand pipe on the public main.

14 houses have either well water or roof water or both.

Included in the 14 houses are four properties in the Hackington area which have a piped supply from a well in the

adjoining district. Samples have shown the supply to be polluted and the property owners have instructed the Gas and Water Co. to lay a service pipe from the public mains which will be completed as soon as materials are available.

During the latter part of 1946 the Council resolved to give a guarantee to the Gas and Water Company under the Water Act, 1945, in respect of a water main to be laid to supply 16 houses in Stodmarsh Road which either take a supply from a stand pipe, well water or roof water. When this work is completed the provision of an adequate supply of town's water will remove a problem to which the Public Health Committee has given much thought during recent years.

The City Analyst reporting on samples of water sent to him for chemical analysis stated in every case that the supply is, as usual, very pure organically. The following is a typical copy of the Analyst's report :—

Appearance	Clear
Smell	Normal
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.47
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.38
Ammonia	0.0007
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0011
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.008
Hardness before boiling (Total)	9.1
Hardness after boiling (Permanent)	3.7
Total Solid Matter	13.30
Microscopical Examination of Deposit	Slight Chalk only
Metallic Impregnation (Copper Lead, Zinc)	None

Remarks.—The above sample from the Public Supply is, as usual, very pure organically and free from sewage percolation.

INSPECTION OF FOOD

Meat Supply.

It had been realised for some time by all concerned that the slaughtering arrangements in the City, which also served several adjoining districts, were not satisfactory, and matters were brought to a head by representations by one of the authorities concerned.

At the end of September the Ministry of Food closed the City slaughterhouses, and since that date the home-killed meat has been brought from Woolwich to a depot in the City for

distribution to Canterbury and the adjoining area hitherto served by the slaughterhouses.

There can be no doubt of Canterbury's ideal situation in the centre of the agricultural area of East Kent, and the City Council were in negotiation at the end of the year with the Ministry of Food for the erection of a model abattoir.

Five hundred and thirty-eight visits were made during the year in connection with meat inspection duties, and the following table shows the number of animals inspected :—

Cattle	...	...	...	1704
Calves	...	...	...	1391
Sheep	...	...	...	4639
Pigs	...	...	...	241

It is regretted that it is not possible to supply the percentage of animals found to be affected with the various diseases.

The total amount of meat and offal found to be diseased or otherwise unfit for human food was 17 tons 1 qr. 2 lbs.

Other Foodstuffs.

Thirty-three tons eleven cwts. three qrs. five lbs. of various foodstuff, mainly canned food, was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Knackers Yards.

There are two Knackers Yards carrying on business in a small way. Inspections have shown the premises to be kept in a satisfactory condition and the businesses conducted in a clean manner.

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the City at the end of the year was 29. One bakehouse was enlarged and much improved and several of the older bakehouses require modernizing as soon as the labour situation improves. Minor repairs and defects, such as limewashing, discovered during inspection were remedied upon the occupiers' attention being called to them.

FISH FRYING PREMISES

There are eight fish fryers in the City. Twenty-five inspections made during the year showed the businesses to be satisfactorily conducted and defects discovered were readily attended to.

Suggestions to be borne in mind for these premises include the conversion from solid firing, which is objectionable in that the fires are fed from the interior of the shop and there also may be a smoke nuisance unless the firing is carried out in a careful manner.

RESTAURANTS

Fifty-three visits were paid to restaurant kitchens, and in practically every case the standard of cleanliness was of a high order. Improvements have been carried out in premises, and several occupiers have mentioned that they are anxious to modernize their kitchens as soon as possible. Special attention is being given to the provision of washing facilities for the staff in these premises.

The supply problem is blamed for the continued use of chipped and cracked crockery, but at the same time hygiene could be improved by more use of the final hot rinse in washing-up to eliminate the old-fashioned tea cloth.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The following 155 articles of food were submitted for chemical analysis by the City Analyst :—

Article	No. of samples	Number genuine	Samples adversely reported upon			
				Formal	Informal	No. 58
*Milk	47	—	46			
*Gelatine	—	1	1			
Pepper	1	2	3			
Baking powder	—	3	3			
Self-raising flour	5	—	5			
*Jam	6	4	8 Nos. 141, 143			
*Marmalade	—	2	2			
Curry powder	—	2	2			
Tinned peas	—	1	1			
*Yeast extract	—	2	2			
*Salmon paste	1	—	1			
*Bottled cockles	—	1	1			
Malt vinegar	4	1	5			
*Butter	3	1	4			
*Margarine	3	—	3			
“ All Bran ”	—	1	1			
Whisky	7	—	5 Nos. 10, 14			
*Beer	7	—	7			
Gin	1	—	1			
Ruby wine	1	—	1			
Carre de L’Est	1	—	1			
Dried Milk	—	1	1			
Ground Ginger	1	—	1			
Licorice	—	1	1			
Semolina	—	1	1			
Malt cup	—	1	1			
Indian “ brandee ”	—	1	1			

Article			No. of samples		Number genuine	Samples adversely reported upon
	Formal	Informal				
*Ice cream	—	4	4	
Lemon juice glycerine						
balsam	—	1	1	
Iodine	2	1	1	Nos. 54, 63
Almond oil	—	1	1	
Calamine lotion	...	—	—	1	1	
*" Liviari "	—	1	1	
*Fish spread	—	2	2	
*Table jellies	—	5	5	
*Jelly crystals	—	2	2	
*Patent food	—	2	2	
Flavourings	—	2	2	
Cochineal colouring	...	—	—	1	1	
Dried mint	...	—	—	1	1	
Spice	—	1	1	
*Vegetable extract	...	—	—	1	—	No. 82
*Sausages	...	1	—	—	—	No. 127
*Sausage meat	...	5	—	—	3	Nos. 124, 129
*Whalemeat sausages	...	1	—	—	1	
*Pickles and sauces	...	—	—	4	4	
Cream of tartar	...	—	—	1	1	
*Pressed ham and beef	...	1	—	—	1	

Remarks.

Sample No. 10. Whisky containing 7% added water. Vendor fined £5 and £2/2/- costs.

Sample No. 14. Whisky containing 12% added water. Vendor fined £5 and £2/2/- costs.

Sample No. 54. Informal sample of iodine slightly deficient in iodine. Followed up by sample Nod. 63.

Sample No. 58. Milk containing 3% added water. Vendor fined £1 and £2/12/6 costs.

Sample No. 63. Contained only 2.26 grammes of iodine per 100 m.l., whereas tincture of iodine must contain not more than 2.55 grammes of iodine and not less than 2.45 grammes of iodine per 100 m.l. of tincture. Manufacturer cautioned.

Sample No. 82. Informal sample of beef and vegetable extract found to be undergoing decomposition. Rest of stock destroyed and vendor cautioned.

Sample No. 124. Sausage meat containing only 39% of meat as against the legal minimum of 50%. Vendor cautioned.

Sample No. 127. Sausage meat containing only 46% of meat as against the legal minimum of 50%. Vendor cautioned.

Sample No. 129. Sausage meat containing only 46% of meat as against the legal minimum of 50%. Vendor cautioned.

Sample No. 141. Strawberry and gooseberry jam deficient in soluble solids, 66.1% as against the minimum of 68.5%. Manufacturers fined £5 and £2/11/6 costs.

Sample No. 143. Victoria plum jam of the same make as No. 141 deficient in soluble solids, 67.3% as against the minimum of 68.5%. Case dismissed on payment of costs.

The Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations.

The samples of food marked * in the preceding table were also examined under the above Regulations, and in no case was there any contraventions.

MILK

Production.

During the year one long-established cowkeeper sold out, and at the end of the year there were seven cowkeepers with a total of 200 cows. Five of the cowkeepers hold licences to produce Accredited milk, and 17 samples were obtained and submitted to the methylene blue test prescribed by the Milk (Special Designation) Order. Fourteen of the samples satisfied the test for keeping quality. The three samples which failed to satisfy were obtained during the hot summer weather. Greater attention was paid to sterilization and, after some worn-out equipment had been replaced, follow-up samples proved to be satisfactory.

Six samples of tuberculin tested milk (produced in a neighbouring district and bottled in the City) were tested for keeping quality. All the samples from one vendor were satisfactory, but two from the second vendor did not satisfy the test. It was discovered that samples taken at the place of production were failing the test and representations were made to the Authority concerned.

Twelve samples of ordinary milk were subjected to the methylene blue test for keeping quality. Three of the samples failed to satisfy, and the result of one which was milk sent into the City was forwarded to the district concerned.

Twenty-nine samples of milk (14 Accredited, four Tuberculin Tested, two Pasteurised and nine ordinary) were obtained for biological tests, and the County Pathologist reported all the samples to be free from tubercle bacilli.

Distribution.

There are 12 milk retailers in the City. Two firms with holder type pasteurising plants are licensed by the City Council to pasteurise milk. A third firm with a flash pasteurising plant is licensed by the Ministry of Food to produce heat-treated milk, and during the year the following 42 samples of pasteurised and heat-treated milk were sent to the City Analyst for examination.

	... Pasteurised milk	Passed		Failed	
		Phosphatase test	Methylene blue test	Phosphatase test	Methylene blue test
	... Heat-treated milk	25	26	3	2
	... Heat-treated milk	11	14	3	-

Official warnings by the City Council were given to the firm where samples failed the tests, and the attention of the Ministry of Food as licensing authority was called to failures in the heat-treated milk.

The delivery of new plant is still awaited by the dairymen, and, considering the age of the existing plants, the results of the pasteurised milks may be considered as being not altogether unsatisfactory.

Of the milk delivered in the City, it is estimated that approximately 85% is either tuberculin tested or has been submitted to a pasteurising process.

The objectionable method of delivering milk by hand can is still carried on to a minor extent by the small retailers. As soon as the supply of bottles improves, efforts will be made to secure the distribution of all milk in containers filled and sealed in the dairy. In the meantime, the general public can help considerably by asking for their milk to be delivered in sealed containers instead of by the hand can method, which exposes the milk to serious contamination every time the lid is removed from the can.

The Council, after considering a report of the City Analyst that a milk bottle used to deliver milk had on its interior surface more than 100 colonies of living mould of the nature of algae, authorised that proceedings be taken against the dairyman. The firm was fined £2 and £3/13/6 costs.

Milk in Schools Scheme.

Approximately half of the samples of milk taken for methylene blue and phosphatase test were from milk bottled for consumption in schools. In every case the milk had been efficiently pasteurised and the samples satisfied the test for keeping quality.

Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936 to 1946.

The following licences were granted by the City Council under the above Orders :—

To produce Accredited Milk	...	...	5
To Pasteurise Milk	...	...	2
To bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	2

ICE CREAM

There are 7 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream and 36 samples of ice cream were submitted to the methylene blue test in 1947. When considering the following results, it should be borne in mind that the methylene blue test for ice cream is an innovation and that it is not yet a statutory test. The authors of the test point out it is a provisional test and, in view of the adverse criticism by many public health officers after a year's working of the test, it would appear that some modification is necessary.

The 36 samples were classified as follows :—

- Grade 1— 5 samples.
- Grade 2—12 samples.
- Grade 3—10 samples.
- Grade 4— 9 samples.

The sampling was not spread evenly over the manufacturers, but concentrated upon those whose samples were falling into grades 3 and 4, so therefore the results are not in fact so bad as they would at first appear.

The manufacturers are most anxious to produce a satisfactory article and all of them are awaiting the delivery of new equipment.

Attempts were made to find the cause of the unsatisfactory samples by sampling the ice cream powders and taking sterile rinsings of the equipment. The investigations proved that the fault lay in the construction of the freezer barrels, which made cleansing a difficult problem.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and the fat content ranged between 1.75 per cent. and 3.12 per cent., and the solids-no-fat between 18.99 per cent. and 22.22 per cent., the average being 2.4 per cent. fat and 21.03 per cent. solids-not-fat.

One bad feature of the old ice cream days which is still present is the practice of selling wafers and cones from vehicles in the streets. The introduction of legislation forbidding the selling of loose ice cream except in cafes and restaurants is long overdue, but in the meantime the public could help by buying only pre-packed ice cream in public thoroughfares.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	45	22	2	—
ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	101	76	5	—
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	146	98	7	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	9	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Reasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Defective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ..	—	—	—	—	—
i) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
ii) Unsuitable for defective ..	5	3	—	3	—
iii) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	14	8	—	3	—

RODENT CONTROL

One rodent operator is employed by the Council and the methods used are those recommended by the Infestation Branch of the Ministry of Food.

As in 1946, the townspeople co-operated in reporting the presence of rats and 58 complaints were received at the office. During the year, the Council resolved to make no charge for ridding premises of rats, providing there is no neglect on the part of the occupier. This system will encourage persons to notify the presence of rats as soon as they are noticed, whereas under the old system of charging for all extermination work there was a natural reluctance to report the presence of rats. The forthcoming bill acted as a deterrent to report, and persons hoped that the rats would move to neighbouring premises.

The investigation of the complaints received revealed 53 adjoining premises to be infested in some degree, and 25 other infestations were discovered during a systematic survey of the City which was completed during the spring.

A maintenance treatment of the sewers carried out in September confirmed the effectiveness of the sewer treatment scheme of the previous year. All the manholes in which food was consumed in the treatment scheme, plus adjacent manholes, were baited. Sixty-nine manholes were so baited and only in 4 manholes was any food consumed.

The operator, who also assists with other public health work, was kept fully occupied, and the following is a summary of the rodent work carried out during the year.

Visits to dwelling houses	...	...	1034
Visits to other premises	...	...	727
Estimated number of rats killed	...	...	739

No. of premises cleared—

Rats.

Houses	...	...	...	...	114
Business premises	...	...	...	...	68

Mice.

Houses	...	...	...	...	14
Business premises	...	...	...	...	5

The rat population is being kept at a low level, but there is no room for complacency. Nothing short of more frequent visits to the old and congested parts of the City and other places likely to attract rats will reduce the rat population still lower, and in view of the other demands on the part-time rodent operator, it would be advisable for the Council to consider increasing its staff in the fairly near future.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926

Five formal samples and 4 informal samples of artificial manure and 2 formal samples of feeding stuffs were sent for analysis.

Seven samples were unsatisfactory in the following respects :—

2 samples of bone meal
1 sample of super phosphate

The samples contained more phosphoric acid than was declared. The manure was therefore of a higher grade than indicated on the statutory statement.

1 sample of dried blood

Slightly deficient in nitrogen, 13.1% as against lowest limit of 13.4%.

2 samples of poultry balancer meal

No statutory statement given.

1 sample of suepr phosphate

Official warnings were given in each case and the offenders took steps to effect remedies.

DISINFECTION

Ninety-one rooms and sets of bedding were fumigated after infectious disease or on the request of the occupier after the occurence of cancer, etc., and 6 sets of bedding were destroyed at the request of householders.

Formalin preparations are used in the work of disinfection and the Department has the use of the steam disinfecter at the Municipal Hospital when required.

VERMINOUS HOUSES

Number found to be verminous and disinfected by the Public Health Department staff :—

Council Houses ...	...	...	16
Other houses ...	...	...	23

Various proprietary preparations, mainly D.D.T. and Gammexane, are used and the results have showed these preparations to be effective in controlling the insect pests found in properties.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I present the report on the School Health Services in the City of Canterbury for the year 1947.

We cannot view with much satisfaction the premises on which these services are centred, but the figures presented show that despite these limitations the service is being provided and the health of the school children is benefiting from it.

The Child Guidance Clinic is an exception to my remarks as to premises. Delightfully situated and with a growing wealth of equipment, this clinic is becoming well-known for the good work done in it, as well as for its attractiveness.

The slight fall in figures for minor ailment and Dental Clinic attendances was due to the very harsh winter spell, which brought most work to a standstill.

The observation that no cases of "bad" nutrition were found at routine medical inspection is creditable.

The increased number of scholars taking dinner and milk at school is also noteworthy.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Number of School Departments open at the end of the year—

Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Number of Children on School Roll at the end of the year—

Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2238
Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1602
								<hr/>
								3840
								<hr/>

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Nutrition.

The nutrition of scholars was assessed at the Routine Medical Inspections carried out at the age periods laid down by Regulations. No cases of bad nutrition were recognised. 1,160 children were examined and, of these, 13.27% were classified as excellent, 79.31% as normal, and 7.41% as slightly sub-normal.

Uncleanliness.

The School Nurses made 7,954 examinations and 92 children were found to be suffering from unclean heads. 169 notices of warning and instruction were sent to the parents. One child was cleansed under arrangements made by the Education Authority under Section 54 of the Education Act, 1944. Legal proceedings were not found necessary.

As will be seen from the above figure, there has been a definite decrease in the number of cases of head infestation. This may be due to the use of the new D.D.T. preparations.

Scabies.

Twenty-five cases have been dealt with during the year. In all cases attention was directed to the whole family.

Minor Ailments.

There were 4,530 attendances at the School Clinic for Minor Ailments and, in addition, 297 attendances were made for the purpose of diphtheria immunisation and Schick testing.

Treatments of Defects of Nose and Throat.

In all routine medical and special examinations this type of defect was noted in 192 cases. Of these, 103 were referred for removal of tonsils and adenoids, 89 were kept under observation. During the year, 55 children were operated on, 24 had other forms of treatment, and 4 cases refused operations. All operative treatment was given under the Authority's Scheme. 1 case left the district before operation. 17 children remained on waiting list at the end of the year.

Tuberculosis.

No cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were found in the course of routine inspections.

Defective Vision.

At Routine Medical Inspection—

Number of children whose vision was tested	815
Found to be suffering from Visual Defects	134
Found to be suffering from Squint	7
Found to be suffering from Other Defects	4

At Special Inspections—

Number of Children found with Visual Defects ...	114
Number of children found with Squint ...	30
Number of children found with Other Defects ...	8

Visual Defects Treated by Ophthalmic Surgeon (Vision and Squint).

Total Defects	...	...	...	...	...	184
Spectacles prescribed and worn by	...	...	...	...	...	146
Kept under observation for slight defects	...	...	...	...	...	52
Operations for Squint	...	...	...	...	...	3

Ear Disease and Hearing.

The following cases were found in the course of Routine Inspections and at the Minor Ailments Clinic: Deaf 7, Otitis Media 35, Acute Otitis Media 5, Others 2.

Dental Defects.

The figures relating to the School Dentist's work show that 66% of those inspected required treatment and that the parents of 60.45% consented to treatment. These proportions show a slight fall in the consent rate.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 15 cases of scarlet fever notified amongst school children during the year, compared with 13 last year. Measles and whooping cough were more prevalent, but it is good to be able to record the absence of diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	14
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	106
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	33
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1

Immunisation Against Diphtheria (School Children).

Since regular Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics commenced in 1930, 5,628 mainly of school age, or less, have been dealt with.

The following table gives details of work accomplished up to the end of 1947:—

Number of Sessions held during 1947	...	...	...	...	23
Number of attendances	...	...	...	...	297
Children immunised during the year:—					
School children	...	...	...	...	84
Infant Welfare Children	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Reinforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	119

Fifty children were immunised by local practitioners during the year, the necessary prophylactic being issued free of charge from the Public Health Department. A fee of 7/6 is paid to practitioners in respect of cases dealt with in this manner.

The percentage of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years who have been immunised is now 72.4%.

One session per week for immunisation is held at the School Clinic.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The following cases are recorded :—

Partially sighted pupils	...	...	...	Female	1
Deaf pupils	...	...	...	Male	2
				Female	1
Delicate pupils	...	...	...	Male	1
Educationally sub-normal pupils	...	...	...	Male	18
				Female	6
Epileptic pupils	...	...	...	Male	1
Maladjusted pupils	...	...	...	Male	3
				Female	1
Physically handicapped pupils	...	...	...	Male	2
Pupils suffering from speech defects	...	...	...	Male	3
Pupils suffering from multiple disabilities	...			Male	1
				Female	1

The report of the Medical Director of the Child Guidance Clinic is given on pages 49-55, and includes information on cases of maladjustment.

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK

The Scheme for the supply of milk daily to children in School was continued throughout the year and at the end of the winter term 3,352 children were having milk. 1,232 were Secondary or Technical School scholars.

During the year, 2,328 children received canteen dinners, 636 of which were supplied free. 1,280 were Secondary or Technical School scholars.

Halibut Liver Oil was given to 369 special cases after examination by the School Medical Officer and it was found beneficial to the children.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

Twenty-nine children were examined during the year and passed as fit in compliance with the local Bye-laws governing part-time employment of school children after school or on Sunday.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS

Number of children on the School Rolls at the end of the year :—

Primary	...	...	2238
Secondary	...	...	1602
			—
Total	...	...	3840
			—

TABLE I

Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.

A. ROUTINE MEDCIAL INSPECTIONS.

1. No. of Inspections in the prescribed groups—							
Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	345
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	395
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
							—
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	937
2. No. of other Routine Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	223
							—
	Grand Total	1160
							—

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS

No. of Special and Re-inspections	1674
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TABLE II

The Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year.

Age-Groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ..	345	30	8.69	292	84.63	23	6.66	—	—
Intermediates ..	395	62	15.69	299	75.69	34	8.6	—	—
Leavers ..	197	37	18.78	153	77.66	7	3.55	—	—
Others ..	223	25	11.21	176	78.92	22	9.86	—	—
Total ..	1160	154	13.27	920	79.31	86	7.41	—	—

TABLE III

Group I—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, shown in Table 5).

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme ... 1025

Group II—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments).

GROUP II

Disease or Defect	No. of Defects dealt with	
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Total
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	183	183
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group 1).	1	1
	184	184
No. of children for whom spectacles were—		
(a) Prescribed ..	146	146
(b) Obtained ..	146	146

Group III—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS		
Received Operative Treatment		Total Number Treated
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital	Received other Forms of Treatment	
55	24	79

TABLE VI
Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(i) Number of Children Inspected by the Dentist :—

TABLE V

(1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by School Nurses	...	...	...	...	7
(2) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	7954
(3) Number individual children found unclean	...	...	...	...	92
(4) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 54 of the Education Act, 1944	...	...	...	...	1
(5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:					
(a) Under the Education Act, 1944	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE VI
Blind and Deaf Children.

	1 At Certi- fied Schools (Special)	2 At a Public Elementary School	3 At an Insti- tution other than a Special School	4 At no School or Insti- tution
Blind Children	—	—	—	1
Deaf Children	3	—	—	—

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE SERVICE.

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1947, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928

...	2
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

RETARDED CHILDREN

The Kent Voluntary Association of Mental Welfare.

This organisation supervises defectives referred to it by the School Medical Officer, for the Education Committee.

Reports.

Reports have been submitted in regard to all the young people and children under supervision during the war. These include First Reports, Annual Reports and Special 16 years'

Reports. The Special Reports are made in instances where it is felt that continued supervision is necessary and reporting to the Mental Deficiency Committee is suggested. Final Reports are made in the cases where boys and girls have attained the age of 19 and proved themselves capable of self-support and of taking their normal place in the community.

Visits.

All children are visited in their homes at least twice a year.

Summary.

The following summary of the work of the Association among Canterbury Schoolchildren is abstracted from the Annual Report of the Association.

The number of children and young persons under the supervision of the Association on 1st January, 1947, was seventeen. Two new names have been added during the year, one from the School Medical Officer and one ascertainment, bringing the total number to nineteen.

Details of the above are as follows :—

1. DISPOSALS.

Place of safety pending Guardianship ...	...	I
Transferred to Voluntary Supervision	...	I
		— 2

2. SUPERVISED F O R T H E EDUCATION COMMITTEE under 16 years of age.

Attending school ...	...	...	...	...	6
In employment ...	...	...	...	...	2
Attending the Canterbury Occupation Centre					4
					— 12

3. SUPERVISED F O R T H E EDUCATION COMMITTEE over 16 years of age.

In employment ...	...	...	...	...	4
Unemployed and at home	...	...	...	...	I
					— 5

Total number of children and young persons under the supervision of the Association on 31st December, 1947	17
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

After Care.

One girl over sixteen has been in clerical employment ever since leaving school (shorthand typist); one girl and one lad are employed in a local Nursery, and one boy is working for an iron-monger. One girl has had numerous jobs since leaving school, but has not retained any of them for any length of time; she is of a difficult type.

Of the two children under sixteen who are working, the girl is in domestic service and the boy in the wholesale department of a local Tobacconist.

Visits.

During the year, at least two visits have been paid to the home of each child under supervision.

Reports.

Reports have been submitted in regard to most of the children. Some of those under supervision have been diagnosed as "dull and backward" only, and in these cases occasional reports are given.

Occupation Centre.

The number of patients attending the Canterbury Occupation Centre is now eighteen. Ten of these are local children and the remainder from the County.

The training given at the Centre includes singing, dancing, games, physical exercises, handwork (wool rugs, shopping bags, mats and bags made from covered milk-bottle stoppers, embroidery, sewing and knitting for the seniors, simple weaving and threading, insets, bricks, and apparatus for strengthening hand muscles, and concentration for the juniors).

With the exception of a few colds and one case of measles, the health of the children has been good.

Owing to electricity cuts, the Centre had to be closed for a short period during February and March because of the severe weather and the lack of heat.

Once again, thanks to kind friends, the children had a most enjoyable Christmas Party, a good tea, a Christmas tree and lots of presents. The Supervisor and her Assistant and friends had made the Hall look very attractive.

The children acted two scenes from a Nativity Play and, in contrast, two scenes from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," both of which gained much applause from the audience.

Members of the Visiting Committee received a great welcome when they arrived to join in the fun and games.

The Association would like to express gratitude to the School Medical Officer, the Education Committee, the Staff of the Canterbury Child Guidance Clinic, the Probation Officer and Social Workers for their willing co-operation, and to all those who have shown interest in the children and their work during the past year.

S. S. NUGENT,
Organising Secretary.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

The Report of the Medical Director of the City of Canterbury Education Committee's Child Guidance Clinic for the year 1947.

The work of the Clinic continues to increase. In 1947, 286 new cases were seen, compared with 151 in 1946.

Analysis of Problems referred to the Clinic:—

		Canterbury	County
1.	NERVOUS DISORDERS, e.g., fears, depression, apathy, excitability	10	25
2.	HABIT DISORDERS & PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS, e.g., enuresis, speech disorders, sleep disturbances, feeding difficulties, tics, fits, etc.	5	40
3.	BEHAVIOUR DISORDERS, e.g., unmanageable, tempers, stealing, lying, sex problems, etc.	12	49
4.	EDUCATIONAL, e.g., backwardness, failure to concentrate	13	33
5.	COURT CASES	1	20
6.	MISCELLANEOUS	3	1
		<hr/> 44	<hr/> 168
		<hr/> —	<hr/> —

Source of Referral:—

		Canterbury	County
School Medical Officer	...	17	86
Private Doctors	...	4	17
Court of Probation Officer	...	3	20
Head Teachers and Education Officers		46	34
Parent or Foster-Parent	...	1	17
Other Clinics or Psychiatrists	...	2	27
Social Agencies	...	1	3
Miscellaneous	...	1	7
		<hr/> 75	<hr/> 211
		<hr/> —	<hr/> —

Analysis of Cases Closed during 1947 (including old cases referred in 1945 and 1946):—

		Canterbury	County
Adjusted after treatment	...	5	14
Improved after treatment	...	6	16
No change after treatment	...	2	10
Interrupted due to non-co-operation		8	7

Placed away from home	...	...	—	2
Approved school placing	...	...	—	2
Diagnosed and closed ...	...	...	20	60
Miscellaneous causes, including moved away and transferred	...	—	—	7
		—	—	—
		41	118	—
		—	—	—

Waiting Lists—December 31st, 1947:—

			Canterbury	County
Diagnostic	...	...	16	25

1. The number of City children referred during the year was approximately the same as for 1946.

2. It can be seen from the figures that the work of the Clinic has again expanded during the past year. Both the diagnostic and treatment aspects of the service have been maintained at a fairly satisfactory level, in spite of continued pressure due to the greater numbers. This has been made possible by the appointment of Miss Harnett for six sessions weekly from May, 1947, instead of four sessions. Without this additional time for treatment of individual children the position would have been serious, and we are very grateful to the Committee for granting this increase.

3. A spate of referrals during the last quarter of 1947 produced long waiting lists at the end of the year.

4. The figures can give only a very incomplete idea of the amount of work involved in dealing with the families and children.

The average time taken per diagnostic case is 5 hours. This includes three separate interviews by the Psychiatrist, the Educational Psychologist and the Psychiatric Social Worker, of at least one hour, and a case conference by all workers. Extra visits to school or home are frequently made before the final diagnosis and report can be sent.

Treatment often involves weekly attendance of the child and parent for interview, averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ -hour each. These attendances last six months approximately, though occasionally treatment continues for two years or more. Additional visits, and school contacts or other visits, are often needed.

5. Extra clerical help was also asked for, as the general work had increased so much, and permission was granted for a whole or part-time junior clerk to be appointed in January, 1948. We are again grateful to the Committee for this provision.

6. Psychological work in the schools has been concentrated on a detailed survey of backwardness and educational retardation among children 7 to 14 years of age, its incidence, and classification of specific types of difficulty more especially in reading and arithmetic, with a view to providing some specialised form of remedial teaching in these subjects. These children, while definitely not mentally defective, are educationally subnormal in that, for example, at ten years of age their mental maturation is such that they are only capable of the work of an eight year old, but for want of special teaching which would give each child both time and opportunity to achieve at his own rate, the type and standard of education of which he is individually capable, and which will best fit him for citizenship and adult life, he is only actually achieving results at the 6 or 7 year level, i.e., well below his own capacity.

Many children were found unable to learn to read at 12 and even 14 years of age, while others nearing school leaving age had made little or no progress beyond the infant stages in arithmetic. There are three main reasons for this: (i) innate slowness or dullness; (ii) absence in early school life at critical stages in the mastery of the basic subjects; (iii) emotional upsets, such as anxiety over separation from parents during evacuation, which are a common cause of backwardness in arithmetic in children of all levels of intelligence.

These children constitute a serious problem in the over-flowing classes of to-day, where the level of their attainments may fall two or more years below that of their classmates. Yet with the provision of remedial teaching in reading and arithmetic for several hours a week, in small groups at a remedial centre, such as it is hoped to provide shortly, these children can make progress commensurate with their own individual capacity to learn, while still remaining in their ordinary classes in their own schools.

7. *Development Plan and Memorandum on Special Hostel.*

A memorandum was submitted to the Education Committee in September, 1947, dealing with the expansion of the work at Tower House, and especially with the need for a small Hostel in the area for placement and treatment of maladjusted children. Attention was drawn to the need for such a Hostel in the Annual Report for 1946. During the past year the matter has become more urgent, and a considerable amount of time and money has been wasted in fruitless attempts to obtain placement for children who obviously needed it desperately.

The matter has, we understand, been submitted to the County Authorities for discussion. A worker from the Ministry of Education, who visited during the year, stated that the Ministry were strongly in favour of such Hostels.

8 *Selection of Cases for Treatment.*

It is sometimes felt by those referring a child, or having some knowledge of a case sent to the Child Guidance Clinic, that children are not taken on for treatment who need it, and vice versa.

A few words on this point may not be out of place, as in a service of this kind, such matters interest not only those who are immediately concerned with a particular child, but also those responsible for the service.

The decision in a particular case can be a complex one, but every effort is made to ensure that the treatment side of the service is available for the children who are suitable for continued attendance, and have a reasonable chance of benefiting from it.

Factors influencing this decision are :—

The child's intelligence. A child of very dull intelligence is generally unable to benefit from treatment interviews.

The parents' intelligence. This, too, can affect the practical issue in a decisive way, as parents are occasionally so limited themselves that they are incapable of arranging for the child to be brought for interviews, or to keep any useful contact with the Psychiatric Social Worker.

The nature and degree of disturbance in the child.

The children showing the most obvious symptoms, such as acute behaviour disorders, are not necessarily the most damaged or in most need of help. A neurotic fear which causes little overt alteration in normal behaviour, and is not a nuisance to others, may need prolonged treatment if the child is to adjust and develop normally. But a child who has been mismanaged, and in consequence is out of control, may with some advice and understanding of his particular difficulty, settle quickly and easily and cease to be a problem.

The parents' willingness to co-operate in further work for the child is very important, and the extent to which they are capable of this is not always apparent at the first interview. Sometimes parents who are superficially very anxious to have help in understanding and dealing with their child, prove later to be unable to modify their attitude or opinion, or to accept that their own difficulties are closely bound up with the child's. On the other hand, parents who have appeared reluctant to see the trouble as it affects the child, and may be actively hostile towards it, do after a time prove really willing and able to co-operate in helping him.

The child's accessibility and desire to overcome his difficulty or understand his problem is also significant when assessing the value of treatment. Here it may be some time before a definite decision can be reached.

Social and economic factors may be of prime importance in causing disturbance in a child, and here the clinic service is of little direct help. The family may be put in touch with a social agency which can assist them, but in such cases the root of the trouble is outside the scope of the Child Guidance Service.

Occasionally a child is so unstable that he is virtually not able to benefit from any form of treatment, however intensive or prolonged. These children are generally found to be psychotic or near psychotic in their make-up, and little at present can be done for them, except to give such advice on management as will minimise the difficulties of handling, and relieve those caring for the child from the anxiety resulting from their very natural wish that "something must be done."

Lastly, but by no means least, there is the question of human need. Although we may be unable to see ourselves any way of relieving the mental distress of parents or child, or of solving the problem presented to us, we do at times see parents or children whose urgent need is to have someone willing to listen to their troubles, or to befriend and support them. For this we make no apology, believing that there is still much to learn about the therapeutic situation, and finding that an attempt to meet the human need, even in comparative ignorance of the factors involved, may produce results we had not foreseen, or hoped for.

ELIZABETH WHATLEY,

Psychiatrist.

